

Executive Registry

84 - 2254

9 May 1984


MEMORANDUM FOR THE DCI: 16 MAY 1984

Bill:

Confirming our conversation last night, I think that some representative of the PFIAB, presumably Anne Armstrong or Leo Cherne, could present a favorable picture of CIA activity in a planned BBC broadcast which could be helpful.

Inevitably the BBC will dig up somebody to talk about CIA, Covert Action and you. It seems to me a good idea to get some sympathetic spokesman to appear without getting CIA directly involved.

STAT


John Bross

DCI
EXEC
REG

P-309

9 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Public Affairs Office

FROM: John A. Bross

SUBJECT: Possible CIA Participation in BBC Program

STAT

1. [] of the BBC (223-2050) called to say that the BBC is putting together a program (50 minutes) to coincide with the President's arrival in London in June.

2. The program will deal with the experience of the first Reagan Administration in foreign affairs, focusing particularly on:

East West Relations
The Middle East
Central America
Grenada

3. Allegedly, Secretary Weinberger and Richard Burt have agreed and Eagleburger has tentatively agreed to appear. He also wants some testimony about the "new CIA."

STAT

4. [] was interviewing Jeanne Kirkpatrick on a related but different program today.

5. He wanted me to appear to talk about Mr. Casey's early career in OSS, character and personality. There was also an inference that he would ask some questions about how CIA is doing today. I said that I would not appear; that Casey's experiences in World War II seemed to me at best tangential to the subject of the program and that I was in no position to talk authoritatively about CIA today. I said, however, that I would mention the matter to Mr. Casey as he might want to have some kind of representation on this subject. Dick Helms, incidentally, was asked to speak about Covert Action and refused.

6. I told the Director about this last night, saying that this might be an opportunity to give a European audience an accurate and favorable impression of the American intelligence role in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy.

7. I recommended that he try to get either Anne Armstrong or Leo Cherne to appear on the program and talk about what is wanted from the intelligence effort, the importance of accurate estimates which depend on the collection of a vast amount of data etc., emphasizing that all the functions of CIA are the subject of scrutiny and oversight by or on behalf of the President.

8. The Director thought this a good idea. He also agreed with the suggestion that if some talk about his war-time exploits is needed it might most appropriately come from some British source, possibly Dodds-Parker.

9. [] is going to call me this afternoon and I will put him off for the moment unless you want me to have him call you.

[]
John A. Bross

cc: DCI